

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Director Named to Oversee Primary Care Office within the State Office of Rural Health**

**CORDELE** - Charles Owen, director of the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) for the Department of Community Health, announced today the promotion of David Hartin of Cordele as director of the Primary Care Office.

Hartin will manage the overall direction of six statewide programs geared toward helping communities with primary care, dental and mental health professional shortage areas.

"Dave is a tremendous asset to the State Office of Rural Health. He works closely with our underserved communities to insure access to quality health care," Owens said.

Hartin joined the SORH staff in September 2005 as an operations analyst and was key in stabilizing the Health Professional Shortage Area designations for the state. He worked with the Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Primary Health Care Shortage Designation Branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that Georgia's shortage designations meet all of the federally mandated requirements.

Through the Health Professional Shortage Designations: J-1 Visa Physicians, National Health Service Corps, 3R Net Recruitment and Retention Program, Health Information Technology, and the development and expansion of Federally Qualified Health Centers programs; Hartin will work with Georgia communities to place health care providers and improve available health care in these areas of need.

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About Georgia Department of Community Health

The Department of Community Health champions:

- 1) access to affordable, quality health care in our communities,
- 2) responsible health planning & use of healthcare resources and,
- 3) healthy behaviors & improved health outcomes.

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